Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A method for activating non-licensed software modules ~~access authorization for~~ among a plurality of software modules resident in a computer-controlled switching device within a communications network, comprising:

providing a switching device including a system database comprising a storage device;

installing ~~providing~~ a license database in the switching device, the license database including both ~~the~~ one or more non-licensed software modules and licensed software modules and license information, the license information resident in the switching device pertaining to each~~the~~ of the software modules;

connecting a portable data medium to the switching device and initiating an interaction between the~~a~~ license database and the~~a~~ portable ~~computer readable~~ data medium with a cryptographic algorithm to determine whether the storage device and the portable data medium each include matching hardware identification information; ~~included in the switching device via an activation of the software module in the license database;~~

next transmitting determined matching ~~a~~ hardware identification information and ~~the~~ license information pertaining to at least one software module over a communication link from the switching device to a license manager, the license manager then determining whether license authorization exists for the switching device to use the at least one software module;

the license manager then generating~~creating~~ a license confirmation ~~information by the license manager~~ via a license reference database having licenses for software modules purchased for ~~by an operator of~~ the switching device; and

sending the~~a~~ license confirmation information to the switching device thereby permitting use ~~to decide on the authorization~~ of the software module,

wherein the license ~~manage~~ manager is remotely located from the switching device.

11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 0, wherein an asymmetrical encryption is used in the interaction between the license database and the portable medium.

12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended) The method according to claim 11~~12~~, wherein the portable medium is a card selected from the group consisting of smart card, chip card and SD/MultiMedia card.

14. (currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the hardware identification information is created from a identification number of the license database and [[a]]_ information stored on the card.

15. (currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the hardware identification information and the license information transmitted from the switching device to the license manger are encrypted.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the license manager is a server and is networked with the switching device via a communication network.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the created license confirmation information authorizes operation of the software module in the switching device when the license information for the software module is included in the purchased licenses.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16,

wherein the created license confirmation information authorizes a test operation of the software module in the switching device when the license information for the software module is not included in the purchased licenses, and

wherein the test operation is for a period of time.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the communication connection between the switching device and the license manager is routed via a circuit-switched or a packet switch communication network.

~~19.~~20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 0, wherein the portable medium is a card selected from the group consisting of smart card, chip card and SD/MultiMedia card.

~~19.~~21. (currently amended) The method according to claim 0, wherein the hardware identification information and the license information transmitted from the switching device to the license ~~manger~~ manager are encrypted.

~~19.~~22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 0, wherein the license manager is a server and is networked with the switching device via a communication network.

~~19.~~23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 0, wherein the created license confirmation information authorizes an operation of the software module in the switching device when the license information for the software module is included in the purchased licenses.

~~19.~~24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 0,

wherein the created license confirmation information authorizes a test operation of the software module in the switching device when the license information for the software module is not included in the purchased licenses, and

wherein the test operation is for a period of time.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 0, wherein the communication connection between the switching device and the license manager is routed via a circuit-switched or a packet switch communication network.